

Message Text

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ORIGIN SNM-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 TRSE-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07

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L-03 EB-07 COME-00 DODE-00 /051 R

DRAFTED BY S/NM:RADUGSTAD:BB

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CUSTOMS:BCOLE

DEA:WPLASE

CUSTOMS:GMCMANUS (INFO)

ARA:GBROWN

ARA/NARA:DCOX (SUBS)

S/NM:DCOHEN

L/SFP:LFIELDS (SUBS)

----- 127900

R 282027Z AUG 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 205200

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR

SUBJECT: GRANCOLOMBIANA LINES

REF: BOGOTA 6103; BOGOTA 7638

CARACAS FOR DEA

1. DEPARTMENT RESPONSE TO ISSUES CITED IN REFTELS:

(A) INCREASED SENTENCING FOR COLOMBIANS CONVICTED OF DRUG OFFENSES IN US; (B) US CUSTOMS FINES AGAINST GRANCOLOMBIAN VESSELS NOT EQUITABLE; (C) PROPOSAL TO PLACE US ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ON GRANCOLOMBIAN VESSELS SAILING TO US
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PORTS; (D) TRAINING FOR GRANCOLOMBIAN CAPTAINS AND OFFICERS IN AREA OF NARCOTICS CONTROL.

2. CONCERNED US AGENCIES WISH TO CONVEY APPRECIATION TO

GRANCOLOMBIAN MANAGEMENT FOR ITS CONCERN WITH REGARD TO
DRUG TRAFFICKING IN ITS SHIPS AND THE OFFER TO COOPERATE.

3. REF (A) ABOVE -- PARA 2, BOGOTA 6103 - STIFFER
SENTENCES FOR "MULES". THE DOMESTIC COUNCIL IS LOOKING
INTO SENTENCING AS PART OF ITS OVERALL EVALUATION OF
ANTI-NARCOTICS PROGRAMS. UNDER OUR SYSTEM THE PROSECUTING
FEDERAL ATTORNEYS INVARIABLY SUGGEST THE MAXIMUM PENALTY

PRESCRIBED BY LAW; HOWEVER, THE SENTENCE ITSELF LIES IN
THE DISCRETION OF THE COURT. FREQUENTLY, JURIES ALSO
RECOMMEND SPECIFIC SENTENCES THAT MAY FALL IN THE SEVERE
CATEGORY. NO EXECUTIVE BRANCH POWER EXISTS TO INFLUENCE
THE COURTS IN DEGREE OF SENTENCING. A FACTOR WHICH MUST
BE RECOGNIZED IS THAT SOME SENTENCES ARE NOT IMPOSED OR
ARE REDUCED IN RETURN FOR COOPERATION IN PROVIDING
VALUABLE INFORMATION BY "MULES" WITH REGARD TO MAJOR
TRAFFICKERS. WE WOULD BE PLEASED TO DISCUSS COOPERATION
WITH GOC TO PUT THIS INFORMATION TO USE IN COLOMBIAN
PROSECUTIONS AGAINST TRAFFICKERS THERE WHO ARE MORE
IMPORTANT THAN "MULES" CAUGHT HERE. ADVISE US OF THEIR
REACTION TO THIS PROPOSAL AND WE WILL CONSIDER APPROPRIATE
STEPS TO TAKE; E.G., STATE AND JUSTICE LAWYERS COULD DIS-
CUSS LEGAL ASPECTS WITH GOC PROSECUTORS. NATURALLY,
EXCHANGES OF INFORMATION CAN NOW BE EFFECTED THROUGH
DEA CHANNELS.

4. REF (B) ABOVE -- PARA 3, BOGOTA 6103 - US LAW
PROVIDES FOR FINES TO BE LEVIED ON SHIPPING LINES WHOSE
VESSELS ARE UTILIZED BY DRUG TRAFFICKERS. ASSUMING
THAT GRANCOLOMBIANA AND THE GOC INTENSIFY THEIR ANTI-
NARCOTICS EFFORTS AT THE PORTS AND ON THE VESSELS, THE
PROBLEM OF FINES COULD SIGNIFICANTLY DIMINISH. WE STAND
READY TO BE OF ASSISTANCE.

5. REF (C) ABOVE -- PARA 4, BOGOTA 6103 - IT WOULD NOT
BE PRACTICABLE TO PLACE US ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ON EACH
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GRANCOLOMBIANA SHIP SAILING TO US PORTS. NEVERTHELESS,
WE HOPE COOPERATION WILL IMPROVE BETWEEN DAS UNDERCOVER
AGENTS, WHOM WE NOW UNDERSTAND TRAVEL ON EACH SHIP,
AND DEA CONTACTS IN PORTS OF CALL.

6. REF (D) -- WE SUPPORT THE PROPOSAL TO ARRANGE
GENERAL TRAINING FOR GRANCOLOMBIANA CAPTAINS AND OFFICERS.
IF THE GRANCOLOMBIANA MANAGEMENT CAN INDICATE GENERAL
AVAILABLE PERIODS FOR SUCH DISCUSSIONS, WE WILL ADVISE
CONCERNING TENTATIVE PROGRAM THAT COULD BE HELD IN
COLOMBIA TO INCLUDE: BACKGROUND OF DRUG PROBLEM, DRUG
IDENTIFICATION AND SECURITY MEASURES. SUGGEST EMBASSY
DISCUSS WITH GRANCOLOMBIANA MANAGEMENT AND ADVISE ASAP.

THIS APPEARS TO BE A HIGHLY VIABLE PROGRAM AND CCINC FUNDS COULD BE CONSIDERED FOR ITS SUPPORT.

7. GRANCOLOMBIANA SHOULD CONTINUE TO COLLABORATE WITH DEA TO MAKE CERTAIN NO CONVICTED TRAFFICKERS ARE REHIRED AS CREW MEMBERS.

8. WE WILL LOOK INTO THE POSSIBILITY OF WIDER USE OF

EVIDENCE COLLECTED IN THE US FOR COLOMBIAN NARCOTICS PROSECUTIONS. THIS SUBJECT WILL BE DISCUSSED WHEN THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR JUDICIAL POLICE VISIT THE US IN OCTOBER. THE EMBASSY'S SUGGESTIONS IN THIS REGARD ARE SOLICITED.

9. WE HOPE GRANCOLOMBIANA WILL CONTINUE TO IMPRESS UPON THE COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT ITS CONCERNS WITH REGARD TO NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING AND URGE THE COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT TO STEP UP ITS ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS. (IN THIS CONNECTION, WE WOULD APPRECIATE THE EMBASSY'S ASSESSMENT OF HOW THE NEW PORT POLICE FORCE IS AFFECTING TRAFFICKING.) CUSTOMS WILL CONSIDER SENDING A PORT SECURITY EXPERT TO COLOMBIA FOR CONSULTATION.

10. US CUSTOMS WOULD BE WILLING TO SEND A COCAINE-SNIFFING DOG TEAM TO COLOMBIA FOR A SHORT PERIOD ON A PILOT BASIS. ALSO, CUSTOMS COULD ARRANGE FOR DOG HANDLERS TO RECEIVE APPROPRIATE TRAINING IN THE US.
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PLEASE ADVISE WHETHER IN PRINCIPLE GRANCOLOMBIANA WOULD BE INTERESTED. APPROPRIATE FUNDING WOULD BE CONSIDERED.

11. WE WOULD LIKE A RUNDOWN ON WHAT GRANCOLOMBIANA AND THE COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT ARE DOING ABOUT SECURITY IN THE PORT AREAS, INCLUDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE AFOREMENTIONED PORT POLICE. ARE CREWMEN AND OTHERS WHO ENTER PORT AREAS STRINGENTLY SEARCHED? ARE PROSPECTIVE EMPLOYEES CAREFULLY SCREENED BEFORE THEY ARE HIRED? IS CARGO SEARCHED? HAS GRANCOLOMBIANA CHECKED WITH OTHER SHIPPING LINES TO LEARN THEIR PROCEDURES ON PORT SECURITY? WE WOULD ENTERTAIN SUGGESTIONS FOR US TDY ASSISTANCE IN THESE AREAS. INGERSOLL

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